

Serial No.: 09/986,271

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. - 19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A blower which ~~that~~ is arranged to suck air inside an annular wall through slits as a fan rotates, the annular wall being spaced from ends of the fan blades, and the slits, passing from the inner perimeter to the outer perimeter of the annular wall at a section radially outward of the ends of the fan blades, located in sections of said annular wall adjacent said ends of the fan blades,

wherein the annular wall with the slits comprises a plurality of annular plates stacked in a spaced relation from each other in planes transverse to the longitudinal direction of the axis of rotation of the fan spaced by  $n$  spacers, where  $n$  is an integer greater than or equal to five, and at least  $n-2$  of the  $n$  spacers, comprise two side surfaces perpendicular to the annular plates and all of said side surfaces of said at least  $n-2$  spacers are parallel with each other.

Approved for  
Entry  
cv.  
6/21/04